



TOP SECRET
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

22 August 1957

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MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Future Plans for Project AQUATONE/OILSTONE

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1. I concur in principal with your estimate of the political situation as it relates to the Soviets and the period of relative invulnerability for the U-2 as they effect the possibilities for future OILSTONE/AQUATONE operations. Insofar as sponsorship is concerned we seem to be dependent upon the current political thinking on this subject. The success of the presently planned missions from [REDACTED] relative to intelligence take and possible political reaction, plus further developments in Project RAINBOW, are likely to be decisive factors in determining the future of our joint project.

2. We intend to continue our program to achieve and maintain an Air Force capability. This is essential to our EWP and necessary should circumstances dictate a change in the overflight situation. However, you may be assured of the continued support and interest of the Air Force in our joint project on a priority basis.

3. I wish to further assure you of the complete support of the Strategic Air Command and urge you to make maximum utilization of all existing SAC facilities world-wide. This would be to your particular advantage in light of our increasing Air Force capability with the U-2 weapons system and my intention to exercise this capability on a world-wide basis through Strategic Air Command. Continued close operational coordination is essential. The recent mission operated from Eielson AFB, Alaska is an excellent example of the nature and type of coordination and support available to you. It is conceivable that taking continued advantage of such support could ultimately enable you to reduce appreciably various elements of your organization without diminishing your control responsibility.

4. I do not understand your choice of a base at [REDACTED] in preference to Adana since in all operational aspects as well as from the political standpoint Turkey appears to be the more desirable area. A unit based in a less sensitive area with a year round weather capability and in closer proximity to probable staging areas certainly affords the maximum operational potential.

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5. There appear to be no major problems incident to your borrowing back from the Air Force any of the five U-2's and equipment which you plan to release in November. As you know the Air Force U-2 operational concept was based on assuming all ☐ assets by this July past. This concept in addition to the wide range of locations involved in implementing the ☐ project is resulting in a curtailed Air Force program. It would appear, therefore, that any arrangements made to leave supplies and equipment be limited to those locations that could be of mutual use and be restricted to fixed or relatively immobile assets. This could then make available for Air Force utilization such supplies and equipment as might be excess to your requirements at any particular time.

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THOMAS D. WHITE
Chief of Staff, United States Air Force